

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, September 7, 2004, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter St., Edgefield.

Prior to the Council's regular meeting, members of the staff of the Archives Department were hosts to the County Council. Council members were informed of the functions of the Archives and of the numerous individuals coming in to obtain information from the different records stored in the vault. Council members, the administrator and the county attorney were given a tour of the vault. The Archives Department has applied for a \$20,000 grant that would be helpful with microfilming. The grant would provide \$10,000 from the State Archives Department, a \$5,000 cash match from the County, and \$5,000 from and in-kind labor.

Members present:

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman
Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman
Norman Dorn, Councilman
Joel D. Hudson, Councilman
B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

Others present:

Wayne Adams, Administrator
John F. Byrd, Jr., County Attorney
Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council

Chairman Kneece called the meeting to order and Councilman Hudson gave the invocation. After the invocation was given, the Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

Minutes

A motion to accept the August 17, 2004, Edgefield County Council Minutes was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Kitchens. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Councilman Kitchens asked about the \$109,855.28 (EMS) on the Treasurer's report. The administrator explained that the program will show a cash flow deficit until the current year's property tax receipts begin to come in.

Ordinances

Motion was made Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 04-05-449 "An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Not Exceeding \$1,500,000 in Principal Amount of a Hospital Revenue Bond Anticipation Note (The Edgefield County Hospital Project) of Edgefield County, SC; Providing for the Form and Details of the Note; Providing for the Disposition of the Proceeds Thereof; and Other Matters Related Thereto." Motion carried unanimously. This is a renewal of the existing Bond Anticipation Note for this project, which expires

on Oct. 31, 2004. When we are ninety percent complete the USDA will come in and fund the project, and there will be no further need of the temporary financing. Since it expires on Oct. 31st it will have to be renewed because funding will be needed beyond that point. The interest rate can be, however, negotiated with the present lender, but if a satisfactory conclusion is not reached may have to bid it.

New Business

Ortho-imagery project

Mr. Bobby Bowers was unable to attend the council meeting concerning the mapping ortho-imagery project for Edgefield County. Mr. Louis Lapine, Chief of the SC Geodetic Survey, was present instead. Mr. Lapine met with the administrator and staff from the assessor's office and the building department in August concerning the mapping. The SC Geodetic Survey runs a state mapping program that helps the counties upgrade and modernize their tax mapping structure. Mr. Lapine presented slides of the various examples of base maps that will be used to build a modern land information system – all digital. The total cost for the project is \$65,000.00. Mr. Lapine stated that The SC Geodetic Survey will allocate \$22,000 from a Federal Grant. Mr. Lapine said that when he first looked over this project he estimated the county's part to be about \$45,000.00. He tried to come up with fifty percent of the money. The only way you can get federal money is to spend two dollars to get one dollar. So, he figured \$45,000 in receipts and could give the county back \$22,500.00. This project can be adjusted so that it spans two fiscal years. The county can pay its portion in two budget cycles. When we do that we make sure the mapping contract extends beyond July – in this case, it would be July 2005. Mr. Lapine stated they fly only between February 1 and March 15 because there is a clearer view of the ground. There is a Memorandum of Understanding that includes the money being offered and it is stated in the Memorandum exactly what will be done and what the State is responsible for. We ask that you follow our specifications so that the county's maps will match everyone else's map, and that we get one copy of the maps to assist other state agencies.

Mr. Adams explained the next agenda item (Memorandum of Understanding) saying that it basically states that the County will cooperate with the State on providing copies of the maps and that the County will spend the two-one amount (Mr. Lapine will include 'over two budget years'). Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Dorn, to allow staff to negotiate and execute the MOU. Motion carried unanimously.

Site Certification

The SC Department of Commerce asked Edgefield County to manage the awarding of a contract to an engineering services firm for its site selection program. This involves environmental certification for industrial sites for five counties, one of which is Edgefield County – up to \$500,000 and up to \$100,000 per county and up to \$50,000 per site. In order for a site to qualify it has to either be under county ownership or long term option with a guaranteed price for the county. The engineering firm, in addition to conducting

the environmental work, will rate these sites and determine whether they qualify. They will consider such issues as how close the site is to the infrastructure and other criteria that the Department of Commerce asked them to use to determine if it is worth the investment to get sites environmentally certified. All that the Dept. of Commerce has asked the County of Edgefield to do is to take these proposals from engineering firms and rate the firms and suggest to this county council a firm that will do the site certification work for all five counties. We are just the administering county – the money will come through here. We will not get any more or less than our share. We selected a panel of three persons: Robert Long from Economic Development Partnership; Howard Gibson, our Building and Planning Director; and Henry Coleman, our former county engineer to rate the firms. The top two firms as they have rated them are Wilbur Smith & Associates (score of 97.9) and B. P. Barber & Associates (score of 97.1). We are asking for permission to negotiate this contract with Wilbur Smith & Associates and failing satisfactory results to move on to B. P. Barber & Associates. If we have to go further down the line we will come back to county council. The expenditures for this firm to perform the services will be paid from the grant. There are not out-of-pocket costs to Edgefield County at all. The one site Edgefield County has under long-term ownership (under a long-term development agreement) is the industrial park. And, fortunately, a lot of these expenses have already been paid in years prior. There is some work to be done to finish the certification but very little. We are looking at other sites. One is called the Bouknight Site (between Johnston and Trenton) and perhaps one in the Edgefield Industrial Park (here in town). We are trying to find additional sites that will qualify. It does not have to be done at this point – just need to get an engineering firm on line. The site does not have to be owned by the county. It can be under a long term option with a guaranteed price, and *long-term* for the Department of Commerce is at least five years. Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to accept Wilbur Smith & Associates with B. P. Barber & Associates as an alternate. Motion carried unanimously.

Edgefield County Hospital Budget

Mr. Sam Gregory, Hospital Administrator, presented to Council the hospital's 2005 budget. Mr. Gregory highlighted the budget for council and then addressed the hospital's request concerning the millage. The hospital has been receiving 5.6 mills. They are asking for an additional 1.4 mills which would make a total of seven (7) mills. This would basically help the hospital defray the cost of installing a sprinkler system in the hospital, particularly in the patient room area. In preparing, hopefully to be designated as a critical access hospital, they have been told that obviously the new life safety code features have to be met in order for the hospital to get that designation and the sprinkler system will cost approximately \$163,000.00. The hospital does not have the reserves to complete the \$163,000 so they will be looking at grants and possible loans. The 1.4 mills will only contribute approximately \$65,000.00.

The Administrator asked for the floor. Mr. Adams stated that he knew the sprinkler system was not the only capital need the hospital has (\$163,000). There is a pressing need for a roof (\$140,000) and an HVAC system that is critical at this time. If Council would be willing to raise the millage (a decision they would have to make) wouldn't it be better to have a list of the capital improvements and to do a borrowing and use the millage difference to pay off the debt over some years. Hospital officials and council agreed to this idea in principle.

No guests.

No executive session.

Claims approved as follows:

A. PAYROLL: 8/2/04 thru 8/15/04
Regular.....\$170,108.13
PAYROLL: 8/16/04 thru 8/29/04
Regular.....\$170,232.76
B. General Operating.....\$551,555.51

There being no further business, Councilman Dorn made the motion to adjourn. The next regular meeting of the Edgefield County Council will be held at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, October 5th in the County Council Chambers.

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

Norman Dorn, Councilman

Joel D. Hudson, Councilman

B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

ATTEST

Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council

